

REMARKS

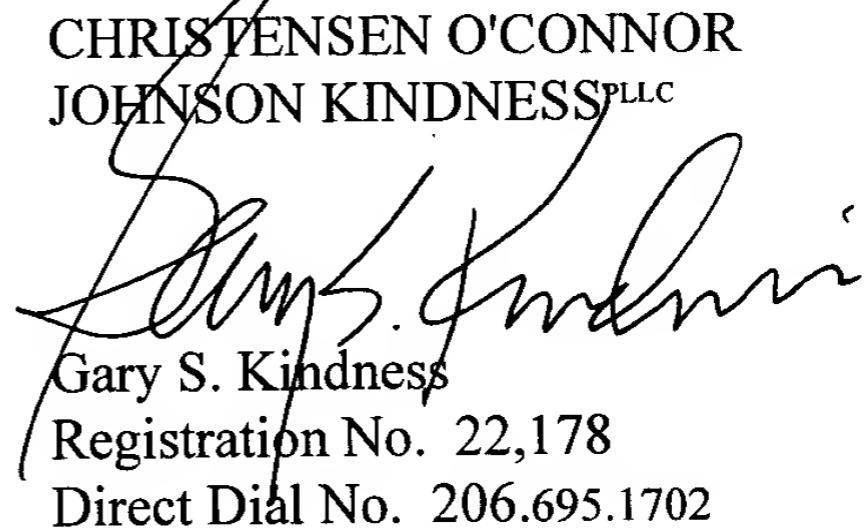
Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be re-examined.

This amendment cancels most of the claims rejected in the final Office Action mailed January 2, 2003. Claims 2, 9, 14, 17, 18, 20, and 34 have been placed in independent form. Further, Claims 4-8, which were rejected, have been made dependent on Claim 2, which was indicated to be allowable. In addition, Claim 8 has been amended for reasons of language consistency and clarity. Claim 16, which was rejected, has been made dependent upon Claim 14 or 15, which also were indicated to be allowable.

In view of the cancellation of the rejected claims and the foregoing amendments, applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing all of the claims remaining in this application and passing the application to issue is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

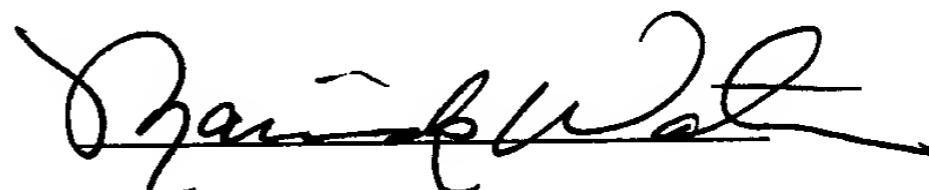
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on the below date.

Date: April 1, 2003



GSK:ejh/nfs

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